

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (New) An image-processing apparatus for processing the image data input from an image-handling device and then outputting the image data to another image-handling device, said apparatus comprising:

black adaptation correction means for correcting the image data by applying a black adaptation conversion  $X_s Y_s Z_s$  to  $X_{s,k} Y_{s,k} kZ_{s,k}$  in order to determine optimal color space  $X_{op} Y_{op} Z_{op}$  such that the colors of the images produced by the image-handling devices are similar.

4. (New) A method of processing image data input from an image-handling device before the image data is output to another image-handling device, said method comprising the step of:

correcting the image data by applying a black adaptation conversion from  $X_s Y_s Z_s$  to  $X_{s,k} Y_{s,k} kZ_{s,k}$  in order to determine optimal color space  $X_{op} Y_{op} Z_{op}$  such that the colors of the images produced by the image-handling devices are similar.

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